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11 Nov '81

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FAX-CBS-TERPIL:280

CBS SAYS TERPIL AND KORKOLA ABDUCTED FROM BEIRUT

WASHINGTON (AP) - TWO FORMER CIA AGENTS CONVICTED OF CONSPIRING TO SELL ARMS TO AGENTS POSING AS SOUTH AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARIES WERE ABDUCTED IN BEIRUT LAST WEEKEND; CBS NEWS REPORTED TUESDAY NIGHT.

THE NETWORK QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING THE TWO MEN, FRANK TERPIL AND GARY KORKOLA, "WERE ABDUCTED IN BEIRUT BY THREE SYRIANS; ONE OF WHOM IS IDENTIFIED AS A FREE-LANCE INTELLIGENCE AGENT."

CBS, WHICH DID NOT SPECIFY THE NATURE OF THE SOURCES, SAID THE TWO MEN WERE LAST SEEN BY TERPIL'S WIFE, RUTH, AT THE BEIRUT RESTAURANT THEY WERE PLANNING TO OPEN.

"THREE MEN CAME INTO THE RESTAURANT; AND THEY WANTED TO TALK TO HIM," MRS. TERPIL SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ACCOMPANYING THE REPORT. "IT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT TERPIL AND KORKOLA LEFT WITH THE TRIO.

TERPIL IS A FORMER CIA AGENT WANTED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES FOR ALLEGEDLY CONSPIRING WITH ANOTHER FORMER AGENT AND FUGITIVE, EDWIN WILSON, TO SELL ARMS TO LIBYA AND CONTRACTING TO SUPPLY U.S. SOLDIERS TO TRAIN TERRORISTS FOR LIBYAN LEADER MOHAMMAR KHADAFY.

KORKOLA, OWNER OF A NEW JERSEY ELECTRONICS FIRM, AND TERPIL APPEARED ON CBS' "60 MINUTES" SUNDAY NIGHT IN AN INTERVIEW THE NETWORK SAID WAS TAPED LAST WEEK.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, KORKOLA WAS ASKED WHY U.S. AUTHORITIES WANTED TERPIL.

"THERE'S TWO SIDES TO IT," KORKOLA REPLIED. "ONE, THEY WANT FRANK BACK; AND I THINK EQUALLY HARD THERE'S ANOTHER GROUP THAT DOESN'T WANT HIM BACK. THEY WANT HIM OUT OF THE WAY."

TERPIL AND KORKOLA WERE CONVICTED IN ABSENTIA BY A NEW YORK STATE COURT LAST JUNE OF CONSPIRING TO SELL MACHINE GUNS AND AMMUNITION TO UNDERCOVER AGENTS POSING AS SOUTH AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARIES.

AP-NY-11-10 2056EST

ALSO APPEARED IN 11/11/81 BOSTON GLOBE